REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE OF SECRECY

OF THE

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Die Veneris, 12° *Maii*, 1797°

The Lord Chancellor from the Lords Committees appointed to examine the Matters of the ſealed up Papers received from the Commons the fourth Inſtant, made the following Report, viz:

MY LORDS,

THE Lords Committees appointed to examine the Matters of the ſealed up Papers received from the Houſe of Commons the fourth Inſtant, and to report the ſame as they ſhould appear to them to the Houſe, having carefully examined the Papers referred to them, and compared the ſaid Papers with the Report made by the Secret Committee of the Houſe of Commons, and having received and inveſtigated ſuch further Evidence as they thought in prudence they were called upon to examine, have come to an unanimous Reſolution immediately to report to your Lordſhips, that they are fully ſatisfied and convinced from the Evidence laid before them, that a Traiterous and alarming Conſpiracy has been formed and that ſundry Acts have been done in purſuance thereof by certain affiliated Societies and Perſons in different Parts of this Kingdom, calling themſelves United Iriſhmen, for the Subverſion of the eſtabliſhed Laws and Conſtitution, and the Introduction of a Syſtem of Anarchy, Plunder and Confuſion, ſimilar to that which has fatally prevailed in France.

Your

Your Committee think it neceſſary further to report to your Lordſhips, that it has appeared diſtinctly to them that ſuch a Syſtem was the firſt and fundamental Object of theſe Societies at their original Inſtitution in the Summer of the Year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-one, and that the Attainment of what are called Parliamentary Reform and Catholick Emancipation, were and continue to be held out by them merely as a Pretence for their Aſſociations, and with a View to ſeduce Perſons, who were not apprized of their Traiterous Deſigns, to unite with them.

It has appeared to your Committee, that theſe Aſſociations have gradually multiplied, and are now extended in a very alarming degree, that their Members are bound to each other by Oaths of Secrecy, and appear to be firmly united in a general compact to ſubvert the Monarchy and to eſtabliſh a Republican Government in Ireland—To effect this Object, it has appeared clearly to your Committee, that Meaſures have been adopted by them, and are ſtill continued for procuring Arms and Ammunition to be diſtributed amongſt the Accomplices in this Conſpiracy for effectuating by open Force their Purpoſes, and particularly that Pikes in very conſiderable Numbers have been procured by them—And it has appeared clearly that they look to Force only, for that they have unequivocally avowed their Hoſtility to the Parliament, and to all Members of whom it is compoſed without Diſtinction or Exception.—It has further appeared to your Committee, that the Leaders and Directors of theſe Aſſociations are now and have been for ſome time paſt, anxiouſly engaged in uniting with them a claſs of Men who had formerly diſturbed the Peace of this Country, by Acts of Outrage, Robbery and Murder, under the appellation of Defenders, and your Committee have reaſon to apprehend that in a certain degree they have ſucceeded.

Your Committee having carefully examined the Report made by the Secret Committee of the Houſe of Commons which your Lordſhips have referred to them, find that it is fully ſupported by the Evidence which has been inveſtigated by your Committee, and therefore they have foreborn to enter into the detail contained in the ſaid Report, which otherwiſe they ſhould have thought it neceſſary to lay before your Lordſhips; but they beg leave to refer your Lordſhips to the

ſaid

ſaid Report, which will be found to contain facts of a moſt intereſting and important Nature, and deſerving your Lordſhips moſt ſerious conſideration; and in addition to the facts contained in the ſaid Report, your Committee think it neceſſary to ſtate to your Lordſhips, that it has appeared diſtinctly and unequivocally to them, that a Traiterous Correſpondence and Communication, has been carried on between the Leaders and Directors of the Societies of United Iriſhmen, and the Executive Directory of the French Republic, the period at which this correſpondence was proved to have taken place, has appeared to your Committee, to have been between the Month of June one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-five, and the Month of January one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſix, and the means by which it was carried on, in that inſtance, have been fully proved before your Committee; and it has alſo appeared to your Committee that in the event of ſucceſs on the part of theſe Conſpirators, it has been decided that all perſons who from their principles or ſituations, may be deemed inimical to the Conſpiracy, ſhall be maſſacred; the firſt proſcribed Liſt it has appeared to your Committee, has been calculated by one of their Leaders at thirty thouſand perſons.

Under Circumſtances ſo novel and alarming, your Committee ſubmit to your Lordſhips the expediency of their being empowered to make further Enquiries, and to receive ſuch Communications as may be made to them by Order of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, or by the Committee of Secrecy appointed by the Houſe of Commons whoſe zeal and aſſiduity in concert with your Lordſhips, cannot fail we truſt in detecting this Scene of Iniquity, and thereby averting the Calamities in which the further Progreſs of ſuch a Conſpiracy muſt neceſſarily involve this Happy and Proſperous Nation.

REPORT

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COMMITTEE OF SECRECY

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W. SLEATER, *Printer to the House of Lords.*